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FOURTH EDITION

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almond

alpine

mighty (< *miht*, *might*; see **MIGHT**!) — **al·might·i·ly** *adv.*

al·mond (ă'mənd, ăl'f-, ăl'f-, ăm'ənd) *n.* 1a. A deciduous tree (*Prunus dulcis*) native to Asia and northern Africa and having alternate simple leaves, pink flowers, and leathery fruits. b. The elliptical kernel of this tree, either eaten as a nut or used for extraction of an oil. 2. Any of several other plants, esp. those with almondlike fruits or seeds. 3. Something having the oval form of an almond. 4. A pale tan. [ME *almande* < OFr. < LLat. *amandula*, alteration of Lat. *amygdala* < Gk. *amugdale*.]

al·mo·ner (ăl'mə-nər, ă'mə-) *n.* 1. One who distributes alms. 2. Chiefly British A hospital social worker. [ME *aumoner* < OFr. *aumoner* < *amosne*, alms < LLat. *eleēmosyna*, alms. See **ALMS**.]

al·most (ăl'mōst', ăl-mōst') *adv.* Slightly short of; not quite; nearly: *almost time to go*. See Usage Note at **none**. [ME < OE *almæst*: *eall*, all + *mæst*, most; see **MOST**.]

alms (ămz) *pl.n.* Money or goods given to the poor. [ME *almes* < OE *ælmesse* < LLat. *eleēmosyna* < Gk. *eleēmosinē*, pity, charity < *eleēmōn*, pitiful < *eleos*, pity.]

alms·house (ămz'hous') *n.* 1. A poorhouse. 2. Chiefly British A home for the poor that is maintained by private charity.

alms·man (ămz'mən) *n.* One, usu. a man, dependent on alms.

al·ni·co (ăl'ni-kō') *n.* Any of several hard, strong alloys of iron, aluminum, nickel, cobalt, and sometimes copper, niobium, or tantalum, used to make strong permanent magnets. [AL(UMINUM) + NI(CKE) + CO(BALT).]

al·oe (ăl'ō) *n.* 1. Any of various chiefly African plants of the genus *Aloe*, having rosettes of succulent leaves and long stalks bearing tubular flowers. 2. See **aloe vera**. 3. **aloes** (*used with a sing. verb*) A laxative drug obtained from the juice of a certain species of *aloe*. [ME < OE *alowe* < Lat. *aloē* < Gk.] — **al'ō·et'ic** (ăl'ō-ēt'ik) *adj.*

aloe ver·a (vē'r'ə, vī'r'ə) *n.* 1. A species of *aloe* (*Aloe vera*) native to the Mediterranean region. 2. The mucilaginous juice or gel from the leaves of this plant, used for its soothing and healing properties. [Lat. *aloē*, *aloe* plant + *vērā*, fem. of *vērū*, true.]

A·lo·fi (ă-lō'fē) The cap. of Niue, on the W coast of the island. Pop. 960.

al·loft (ă-lōft', ă-lōft') *adv.* 1. In or into a high place; high or higher up. 2. Nautical At or toward the upper rigging. ♦ *prep.* On or above. [ME < ON *alōpt*: *ā*, in + *lopt*, air.]

al·log·i·cal (ă-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.* Beyond the bounds of logic. — **al·log·i·cal·ly** *adv.* — **al·log·i·cal·ness** *n.*

al·lo·ha (ă-lō'ə, -hə, ă-lō'hā') *interj.* Chiefly Hawaii Used as a traditional greeting or farewell. [Hawaiian.]

al·o·in (ăl'ō-in) *n.* A bitter, yellow crystalline compound obtained from the *aloe* and used as a laxative. [ALO(E) + -IN.]

al·lone (ă-lōn') *adj.* 1. Being apart from others; solitary. 2. Being without anyone or anything else; only. 3. Considered separately from all others of the same class. 4. Being unequalled. ♦ *adv.* 1. Without others. 2. Without help: *cooked alone*. 3. Exclusively; only: *The credit is hers alone*. [ME: *al*, all; see **ALL** + *one*, one; see **ONE**.] — **al·lone·ness** *n.*

SYNONYMS *alone, lonely, lonesome, solitary* These adjectives describe lack of companionship. *Alone* emphasizes being apart from others but does not necessarily imply unhappiness: "I am never less alone, than when I am alone" (James Howell). *Lonely* connotes painful awareness of being alone: "No doubt they are dead," she thought, and felt . . . sadder and . . . lonelier for the thought" (Ouida). *Lonesome* emphasizes a plaintive desire for companionship: "You must . . . not be lonesome because I'm not at home" (Charles Dickens). *Solitary* often stresses physical isolation that is self-imposed: *I thoroughly enjoyed my solitary meal*.

al·long (ă-lōng', ă-lōng') *prep.* 1. Over the length of: *walked along the path*. 2. On a line or course parallel and close to; continuously beside: *trees along the avenue*. 3. In accordance with: *split along party lines*. ♦ *adv.* 1. Forward; onward: *Farther along, we passed a hitchhiker*. 2. As a companion: *brought a friend along*. 3. In accompaniment or association; together: *packed an atlas along with other books*. See Usage Note at **together**. 4. With one; at hand. 5. Informal Advanced to some degree: *along in years*. [ME < OE *andlang*, extending opposite: *and-*, facing; see **ant-** in App. + *lang*, long; see **LONG**!]

al·long·shore (ă-lōng'shōr', -shōr', ă-lōng'-) *adv.* Along, near, or by the shore.

al·long·side (ă-lōng'sīd', ă-lōng'-) *adv.* Along, near, at, or to the side. ♦ *prep.* By the side of; side by side with.

USAGE NOTE In its prepositional use *alongside* may be accompanied by *of*: *The barge lay alongside (or alongside of) the pier*.

al·loof (ă-lōof') *adj.* Distant physically or emotionally; reserved and remote: *stood apart with aloof dignity*. ♦ *adv.* At a distance but within view; apart. [A-² + LUFF, windward part of a ship (obsolete).] — **al·loof·ly** *adv.* — **al·loof·ness** *n.*

al·o·pe·cia (ăl'ə-pe'shə, -shē-ə) *n.* Loss of hair; baldness. [Lat. *alopecia*, fox mange < Gk. *alōpekia* < *alōpēx*, fox. See **WLP-ē** in App.] — **al·o·pe·cic** (-pe'sik) *adj.*

al·loud (ă-loud') *adv.* 1. By voice; orally: *Read aloud*. 2. Loudly; crying aloud for help.

alp (ălp) *n.* 1. A high mountain. 2. A very large mound or mass. [Back-formation < the ALPS.]

ALPA *abbr.* Air Line Pilots Association

al·pac·a (ăl-pāk'ə) *n., pl. alpaca* or **-as** 1. A domesticated South American mammal (*Lama pacos*), related to the llama and having fine long wool. 2a. The wool of this mammal. b. Cloth made from alpaca. c. A coat made of this cloth. 3. A glossy cotton or rayon and wool fabric. [Am.Sp. < Aymara *allpaca*.]

al·pen·glow (ăl'pən-glō') *n.* A rosy glow that suffuses snow-covered mountain peaks at dawn or dusk on a clear day. [Partial transl. of Ger. *Alpenglühēn*: *Alpen*, Alps + *glühēn*, to glow.]

al·pen·horn (ăl'pən-hörn') *n.* A curved wooden horn, sometimes as long as 6 meters (approx. 20 feet), used by Alpine herders to call cows. [Ger.: *Alpen*, Alps + *Horn*, horn (< MHGer. < OHGer.; see **ker-** in App.).]

al·pen·stock (ăl'pən-stōk') *n.* A mountaineer's long, iron-pointed staff. [Ger.: *Alpen*, Alps + *Stock*, staff (< MHGer. *stoc* < OHGer.).]

al·pes·trine (ăl-pēs'trīn) *adj.* Growing at high altitudes; alpine or subalpine. [< Med.Lat. *alpestris* < Lat. *Alpēs*, the Alps.]

al·pha (ăl'fə) *n.* 1. The first letter of the Greek alphabet. 2. The first one; the beginning. 3. Chemistry The first position from a designated carbon atom in an organic molecule at which an atom or radical may be substituted. 4. Astronomy The brightest or main star in a constellation. 5. The mathematical estimate of the return on a security when the return on the market as a whole is zero. ♦ *adj.* 1. Being the highest ranked or most dominant individual of one's sex. Used of social animals. 2. Chemistry Closest to the functional group of atoms in an organic molecule. 3. Alphabetical. [Gk. < Phoenician **alp*, ox, first letter of the Phoenician alphabet.]

al·pha·ad·re·ner·gic (ăl'fə-ăd'rə-nūr'jīk) *adj.* Of, relating to, or being an alpha-receptor.

alpha-adrenergic receptor *n.* See **alpha-receptor**.

alpha and omega *n.* 1. The first and the last. 2. The most important part.

al·pha·bet (ăl'fə-bēt', -bit) *n.* 1. The letters of a language, arranged in the order fixed by custom. 2. A system of characters or symbols representing sounds or things. 3. A set of basic parts or elements. See tables on pages 40 and 41. [ME *alphabete* < Lat. *alphabētum* < Gk. *alphabētos*: *alpha*, alpha; see **ALPHA** + *bēta*, beta; see **BETA**.]

al·pha·bet·i·cal (ăl'fə-bēt'i-kəl) also **al·pha·bet·ic** (-bēt'ik) *adj.* 1. Arranged in the customary order of the letters of a language. 2. Of, relating to, or expressed by an alphabet. — **al·pha·bet·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

al·pha·bet·ize (ăl'fə-bī-tīz') *tr.v.* -ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es 1. To arrange alphabetically. 2. To supply with an alphabet. — **al·pha·bet·i·za·tion** (-bēt'i-zā'shən) *n.* — **al·pha·bet·iz·er** *n.*

al·pha·block·er (ăl'fə-blōk'ər) *n.* A drug that opposes the excitatory effects of norepinephrine released from sympathetic nerve endings at alpha-receptors.

Alpha Cen·tau·ri (sēn-tōr'ē) *n.* A multiple star in the constellation Centaurus, 4.4 light-years from Earth.

Alpha Cru·cis (krōō'sīs) *n.* A double star in the constellation Southern Cross.

al·pha·fe·to·pro·tein (ăl'fə-fē'tō-prō'tēn, -tē-in) *n.* An antigen produced in the liver of a fetus that is present in amniotic fluid and is used in the detection of certain fetal abnormalities.

alpha helix *n.* A structure of proteins, characterized by a spiral chain of amino acids. — **al·pha·hel·i·cal** (ăl'fə-hel'i-kəl, -hē'li-) *adj.*

al·pha·hy·drox·y acid (ăl'fə-hī-drōk'sē) *n.* Any of various fruit acids that are capable of trapping moisture in the skin and initiating the formation of collagen.

al·pha·nu·mer·ic (ăl'fə-nōō-mēr'ik, -nyōō-) also **al·pha·mer·ic** (-fə-mēr'ik) *adj.* Consisting of or using letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and mathematical and other conventional symbols: *an alphanumeric code*. [ALPHA(BETIC) + NUMERIC(AL).] — **al·pha·nu·mer·i·cal** *adj.* — **al·pha·nu·mer·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

alpha particle *n.* A positively charged particle, consisting of two protons and two neutrons.

alpha privative *n.* The prefix *a-* or *an-* before vowels, used in Greek and in English words borrowed from Greek to express absence or negation.

alpha ray *n.* A stream of alpha particles.

al·pha·re·cep·tor (ăl'fə-rī-sēp'tər) *n.* A site in the autonomic nervous system in which excitatory responses occur when adrenergic agents, such as epinephrine, are released.

alpha rhythm *n.* See **alpha wave**.

al·pha·to·coph·e·rol (ăl'fə-tō-kōf'ə-rōl', -rōl') *n.* An alcohol, C₂₅H₅₀O₂, obtained from wheat germ oil or produced synthetically and exhibiting the most potent vitamin E activity of the tocopherols.

alpha wave *n.* A pattern of smooth, regular electrical oscillations in the human brain, having a frequency of 8 to 13 hertz, that occur when a person is awake and relaxed.

Al·phe·us (ăl-fē'as) A river of the Peloponnese in S Greece flowing c. 113 km (70 mi) to the Ionian Sea.

al·pine (ăl'pin') *adj.* 1. Alpine Of or relating to the Alps or their inhabitants. 2. Of or relating to high mountains. 3. Biology Living or growing above the timberline. 4. Sports a. Intended for or concerned with mountaineering. b. Alpine Of or relating to down-



alpaca
Lama pacos



alpenhorn

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ā about
ō paw	item

Stress marks:

' (primary);

' (secondary), as in

lexicon (lĕk'si-kōn')

away from the center line of a ship. 2. Situated or positioned toward the end of an aircraft wing. ♦ *n.* 1. An outboard motor. 2. A boat with an outboard motor. ♦ *n.* 1. An outboard motor. 2. brackets or on the transom of a boat. ♦ *out/board' adv.*

out•bound (out/bound') *adj.* Outward bound; headed away.

out•break (out/break') *n.* 1. A sudden increase: a flu outbreak. 2. A sudden eruption; an outburst: a violent outbreak.

out•breed (out/bred') *tr.v.* -bred (-bred'), -breed•ing, -breeds To subject to outbreeding.

out•breed•ing (out/bred'ing) *n.* 1. The breeding of distantly related or unrelated individuals, often producing a superior hybrid. 2. *Anthropology* The mating of persons from different groups, often as a result of marriage proscriptions within the group.

out•build•ing (out/bil'ding) *n.* A building separate from but associated with a main building.

out•burst (out/burst') *n.* A sudden violent display, as of activity or emotion: an outburst of indignation.

out•call (out/kol') *n.* A visit by a professional person to a client or patient's home; a house call.

out•cast (out/kast') *n.* One that has been excluded from a society or system. — **out•cast' adj.**

out•caste (out/kast') *n.* An Untouchable.

out•class (out-klas') *tr.v.* -classed, -class•ing, -class•es To surpass decisively, so as to appear of a higher class.

out•come (out/kum') *n.* An end result; a consequence. See *Syns* at *effect*.

out•crop (out/krop') *n.* A portion of bedrock or other stratum protruding through the soil level. ♦ *intr.v.* (out-krop') -cropped, -crop•ing, -crops To protrude above the soil. [OUT + CROP, to appear on the surface.]

out•cross (out/kros', -kros') *tr.v.* -crossed, -cross•ing, -cross•es To cross (animals or plants) by breeding individuals of different strains but usu. of the same breed. ♦ *n.* 1. The process of outcrossing. 2. Offspring thus produced.

out•cry (out/kri') *n., pl.* -cries 1. A loud cry or clamor. 2. A strong protest or objection: public outcry over prices.

out•date (out-dat') *tr.v.* -dated, -dat•ing, -dates To replace or make obsolete or old-fashioned.

out•dat•ed (out-dat'id) *adj.* Out-of-date; old-fashioned.

out•dis•tance (out-dis'tans) *tr.v.* -tanced, -tanc•ing, -tanc•es 1. To outrun, esp. in a long-distance race. 2. To surpass by a wide margin, esp. through superior skill or endurance.

out•do (out-doo') *tr.v.* -did (-did'), -done (-dun'), -do•ing, -does (-düz') To do more or better than.

out•door (out/dor', -dor') also **out•of•door** (out'av-dor', -dor') *adj.* Located in, done in, or suited to the open air.

out•doors (out-dorz', -dorz') also **out•of•doors** (out'av-dorz', -dorz') *adv.* In or into the open; outside. ♦ *n.* 1. The open air. 2. An area away from human settlements.

out•doors•man (out-dorz'man, -dorz/-) *n.* A man who spends considerable time pursuing outdoor activities.

out•doors•wo•man (out-dorz'woom'an, -dorz/-) *n.* A woman who spends considerable time pursuing outdoor activities.

out•door•sy (out-dor'zē, -dör/-) *adj.* Informal 1. Associated with the outdoors. 2. Showing a liking for the outdoors.

out•er (ou/tər) *adj.* 1. Located on the outside; external. 2. Farther than another from the center or middle. 3. Relating to the body or its appearance rather than the mind or spirit.

out•er•course (ou/tər-kôrs', -kôrs') *n.* Sexual stimulation or activity between partners without anal or vaginal penetration. [OUTER + (INTER)COURSE.]

outer ear *n.* See *external ear*.

Outer Hebrides See *Hebrides*.

Outer Mongolia See *Mongolia* 2.

out•er•most (ou/tər-möst') *adj.* Most distant from the center or inside; outmost.

outer planet *n.* Any of the five planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, with orbits outside that of Mars.

outer space *n.* 1. The region of space immediately beyond Earth's atmosphere. 2. Interplanetary or interstellar space.

out•er•wear (ou/tər-wär') *n.* Clothing, such as hats, coats, and gloves, for use outdoors.

out•face (out-fas') *tr.v.* -faced, -fac•ing, -fac•es 1. To overcome with a bold or self-assured look; stare down. 2. To defy or resist.

out•fall (out/fôl') *n.* The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges.

out•field (out/feld') *n.* Baseball 1. The playing area extending outward from the diamond, divided into left, center, and right field. 2. The position played by an outfielder. 3. The members of a team playing in the outfield.

out•field•er (out/fel'dar) *n.* Baseball A player who defends left, center, or right field.

out•fit (out/fit') *n.* 1. A set of tools or equipment for a specialized purpose. 2. A set of clothing. 3. Informal An association of persons, esp. a military or business group. 4. The act of equipping. ♦ *tr.v.* -fit•ted, -fit•ting, -fits To provide with necessary equipment. — **out/fit' ter n.**

out•flank (out-flängk') *tr.v.* -flanked, -flank•ing, -flanks 1. To maneuver around and behind the flank of (an opposing force)

outflank



outcrop

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
ār	care	oō	took
ā	father	oō	boot
ē	pet	ū	cut
ē	be	ūr	urge
ī	pit	th	thin
ī	pie	th	this
īr	pier	hw	which
ō	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about,
ō	paw		item

lexicon (lěk'si-kõn') 4